

Mayor's Weekly Message for April 1, 2004

Happy April Fools Day. Though I'd like to play a wonderful joke on you and get some laughs out of it, this is Troy and if I offered up some fake resignation, someone would run with it.

Instead I want to focus this week on one of the City's most extraordinary assets- Frear Park Golf Course. The course has been the subject of some controversy in previous years, but it has also been the source of accolades having been named one of the best golf courses in upstate New York by Hudson Valley Magazine in October of 2003.

It is with those accolades in mind that we are beginning to change the way Frear Park is run in an effort to capitalize on the treasure we have.

The first step in that project is a plan to hire a Golf Course Superintendent to overlook the operations. This is different than the Golf Professional that was suggested several years ago, in the fact that the person we hire will be directly in charge of the day-to-day operations of the course. This person will not worry about providing private lessons during the day, and instead will focus solely on the maintenance of the golf course, and give the people who spend their hard-earned money at Frear Park what they deserve.

The hiring of this new person also will allow the recent investment by the City to mean something. Two years ago the City Council earmarked \$100,000 for improvements at the course, which was eventually spent last year to improve some of the tee boxes at the course. However, more work needs to be done, and it is my goal to hire a person that will be able to accomplish these goals.

I am not a big golfer myself, but people often talk about the drainage problem on the back nine as one of the bigger problems. Despite that small trouble though, the course still remains a beautiful place to play golf, or even take a walk. Through better management, I believe we can improve this great asset. I hope you bear with us as we attempt to do just that.

Perhaps though the best thing about this position is that it will free up other employees to work on our long neglected pocket parks in the City of Troy. With one person concentrating on golf course maintenance, other employees in the Department of Recreation can put forth a solid effort on our smaller parks.

As usual if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, please call us at 270-4401, or e-mail the Mayors Office.

Harry Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy